IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 56

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND REQUESTING FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSED LAND EXCHANGES TO THE LEGISLATURE FOR CONCURRENCE OR NONCONCURRENCE.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, recent potential land exchanges could have had the State Board of Land Commissioners undermining county commissioners and assessors; and

WHEREAS, these proposed land exchanges would have caused unwanted tax losses to counties and lessened county bonding capabilities; and

WHEREAS, appraisals commissioned by the State Board of Land Commissioners and county assessments have differed a great deal; and

WHEREAS, lakefront properties with cabins have posed many legal and political headaches for the State Board of Land Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Idaho provides that the State Board of Land Commissioners "shall have the direction, control and disposition of the public lands of the state, under such regulations as may be prescribed by law"; and

WHEREAS, it would be good public policy to have county commissioners and assessors be timely informed by the Department of Lands and the State Board of Land Commissioners when proposed land exchanges will occur in their counties; and

WHEREAS, it would be good public policy to have the county commissioners and assessors assist the renters for the lakefront properties to help find equivalently valued timber and grazing properties for revenue neutral trades; and

WHEREAS, it would be good public policy for the State Board of Land Commissioners to seriously consider such potential trades instead of undermining county governments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-second Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature requests that the Department of Lands and the State Board of Land Commissioners submit all proposed land exchanges to the Idaho Legislature so that the Legislature can concur or not concur in the land exchange or further commercial property investments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives shall forward a copy of this resolution to the Director of the Department of Lands and to each member of the State Board of Land Commissioners.